

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method usable on a first communication device adapted to communicate with a second communication device, comprising:
 - obtaining a first key;
 - encoding an attribute in the first communication device with the first key to produce a first encoded value;
 - transmitting the first encoded value to the second communication device;
 - receiving a second encoded value from the second communication device, the second encoded value comprising an attribute stored in the second communication device that has been encoded with a second key associated with the second communication device;
 - encoding the second encoded value with the first key to produce a third encoded value;
 - transmitting the third encoded value to the second communication device;
 - receiving a fourth encoded value from the second communication device, the fourth encoded value comprising the first encoded value after being encoded by the second key; and
 - if the third encoded value matches the fourth encoded value, adjusting a total number of matches; and
 - enabling users of the first and second communication devices to physically locate one another only if said total number of matches meets or exceeds a threshold, wherein enabling the users to physically locate one another includes at least one of providing identical images on the first and second communication devices and emitting matching audible sounds via the first and second communication devices;

wherein the first and second communication devices comprise mobile communication devices.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a key comprises generating a random number.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a key comprises reading a pre-programmed value from memory.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein encoding the attribute with the first key comprises calculating the attribute to the power of the first key to produce the first encoded value.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second encoded value comprises the attribute of the second device raised to the power of the second key and encoding the second encoded value with the first key comprises raising the second encoded value to the power of the first key.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the first communication device's attribute to the second communication device only after determining that the third encoded value matches the fourth encoded value.
- 7.-9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling the communication device users to physically locate one another comprises providing each communication device with physical location information of the other communication device.

11. (Currently amended) A communication device, comprising:
- a processor;
- an antenna coupled to the processor;
- memory accessible to said processor and containing an attribute and software executable on said processor;
- a communication interface coupled to said processor and adapted to permit the communication device to communicate with at least one other external device;
- wherein, by executing said software, said processor determines whether the communication device's attribute matches an attribute stored in an external device, without receiving the attributes from the external device, based on a first encoded value received via the local communication interface from the external device, said first encoded value being indicative of an attribute stored in the external device;
- wherein, if the communication device's attribute matches the attribute stored in the external device, the communication device adjusts a number of matches;
- wherein, if the number of matches does not meet or exceed a threshold, the communication device refrains from disclosing a physical location of a user of the external device to a user of the communication device, unless a predetermined attribute of the communication device matches another attribute of the external device;
- wherein the communication device comprises a mobile communication device and is to allow users of the communication and external devices to speak with one another via a service provider network.

12. (Original) The communication device of claim 11 wherein the processor encodes an attribute contained within the communication device with a key to

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produce a second encoded value that the processor causes to be transmitted through the communication interface to the external device.

13. (Original) The communication device of claim 11, wherein the first encoded value received from the external device comprises an attribute stored in the external device that has been encoded with a key unique to the external device.

14. (Original) The communication device of claim 11, further comprising a first key stored in said memory and unique to said communication device, wherein the processor encodes the first encoded value received from the external device with the first key to produce a third encoded value.

15. (Original) The communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor transmits the third encoded value to the external device.

16. (Original) The communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor receives a fourth encoded value from the external device, the fourth encoded value comprising an encoded version of a second encoded value using the key unique to the external device, the second encoded value produced by the processor encoding an attribute contained within the communication device.

17. (Original) The communication device of claim 16, wherein the processor determines whether the third encoded value matches the fourth encoded value.

18. (Original) The communication device of claim 12, wherein the key comprises a random number.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) The communication device of claim 11, wherein the processor transmits text messages to the external device via the local communication interface.
21. (Original) The communication device of claim 11, wherein the communication interface provides a direct, wireless communication with the external device.
22. (Original) The communication device of claim 21, wherein the communication interface implements Bluetooth.
23. (Original) The communication device of claim 11, wherein the communication device's attribute comprises an attribute selected from the group comprising contacts, phone numbers, keywords, interests, appointments and favorite restaurants.
24. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:
 - a first communication device having a first plurality of attributes and a first key;
 - a second communication device having a second plurality of attributes and a second key, the second communication device adapted to communicate with the first communication device;
 - wherein the first communication device encrypts each of the first plurality of attributes with a first key to form a first plurality of encrypted values and the second communication device encrypts each of the second plurality of attributes with a second key to form a second plurality of encrypted values;
 - wherein the first communication device transmits each first encrypted value to the second communication device and the second communication device transmits each second encrypted value to the first communication device;

wherein the first communication device encrypts each second encrypted value with the first key to produce a third plurality of encrypted values, and the second communication device encrypts each first encrypted value with the second key to produce a fourth plurality of encrypted values;

wherein the first communication device transmits each third encrypted value to the second communication device, and the second communication device transmits each fourth encrypted value to the first communication device; and

wherein, if one of the first or second communication devices determines that any third encoded value matches any fourth encoded value, said one of the first or second communication devices enables a user of that communication device to physically locate a user of the other communication device;

wherein the first communication device comprises a mobile communication device;

wherein the first communication device designates a subset of the first plurality of attributes as information that may always, occasionally or never be revealed to the second communication device; and

wherein the first and second communication devices allow users of the communication devices to speak with one another via a service provider network.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein each of the first communication device and the second communication device implement a discovery mode wherein each communication device monitors for the presence of another communication device.

26. (Canceled).

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27. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the first key is distinct from the second key.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising emitting an audible ring tone indicative of said total number of matches.
29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein, if the first communication device is physically separated from the second communication device by a predetermined distance, the first communication device generates a message indicative of said separation.